

THE PILOT

Southern Pines North Carolina

"In taking over The Pilot no changes are contemplated. We will try to keep this a good paper. We will try to make a little money for all concerned. Wherever there seems to be an occasion to use our influence for the public good we will try to do it. And we will treat everybody alike."—James Boyd, May 23, 1941.

Budget Controversy Helps Inform Public

The controversy between the county board of education and the county commissioners, in regard to the capital outlay appropriation for the county school system in the 1957-58 budget has been compromised with appropriation of more money for this purpose by the commissioners, as noted in detail in a news story in today's paper.

Three years ago, there was a similar disagreement between the two boards—the school board maintaining that the appropriation was woefully short of even minimum needs. At that time the matter went to the clerk of court for arbitration, with the outcome that the board of education received some additional funds.

As was the case three years ago, the public benefits enormously by reason of these airings of school financing. Once the two boards

are deadlocked, each has to place its arguments on record. Newspaper coverage of these discussions open wide the doors on school needs over the county and also serve to illuminate the general problem of county budgeting.

Since both the commissioners and the board of education are elected bodies, what they do is of public interest and it is incumbent on both boards to make an accounting of their actions to the public.

If, in advance of budget-making time, the board of education would present an outline of school needs to the people, through the press; and if the commissioners would explain the problems they are faced with in distributing the available funds each year, it would give the public a much better understanding of these matters.

Editor Wins Bout With Government

An 81-year-old weekly newspaper editor—Chet Lampton of the Jefferson, Ohio, Gazette—is the central figure in a story to warm the hearts of all country editors and of all good citizens, for that matter.

In 23 days that worthy man was able, by writing editorials and letters to government officials, to get the Treasury department to revise the wording of an income tax notice.

The story began when Mr. Lampton, who has edited his paper for the past 61 years, received a notice that he owed the Government \$9 on his income tax. It was not so much the \$9—although he claimed, too, that he did not owe that—which troubled the good editor. It was the language in which the notice was phrased.

According to the Government communication, if the alleged delinquent does not send funds which are received within 10 days of the notice, he is threatened, in this first notice, as follows: "Your account will be placed in the hands of an internal revenue collection officer without further notice. Under the law, he may levy on your wages, salary or other income, or seize or sell your property or rights to property, to collect this account."

On these harsh words, the old editor commented:

"It is beneath the dignity of the United States Government to permit any of its agents to humiliate or frighten taxpayers, delinquent or not, in the agency's initial notice of an alleged delinquency.

"The first notice should be as courteous as those used in general business.

"The said Statement of Income Tax Due

gives absolutely no explanation of why, how nor what.

"The wording of this Statement of Income Tax Due shows it was written by someone too ignorant to comprehend business courtesy or the rights of citizens to due process of law under the Bill of Rights."

Several scorching paragraphs are omitted for reasons of brevity here, and then the editor concludes:

"No agency of Government should be allowed to insult any citizen or deny him his constitutional rights or inflict cruel or unusual punishments on a mere assumption that the taxpayer is a willful violator of the income tax law."

These comments were published in Mr. Lampton's paper and were sent to members of Congress. His paper also published an open letter to the President of the United States. He wrote to the Vice-President. An Ohio senator took Mr. Lampton's editorial and a letter directly to the Secretary of the Treasury.

The result of all this: the offensive card will be banned as fast as possible and the new Statement of Income Tax Due will contain no offensive language.

Mr. Lampton's comment on what happened was that his 81 years "would not have been lived in vain if the language on that card were changed."

The editor's experience is an example not only of the effectiveness of a small town newspaper but of what can be done by ordinary citizens in dealing with the Government if they have personal convictions backed by common sense.

Three School Boards Act In Good Faith

Just after the "Pearsall Plan"—which this newspaper had opposed—was written into law by approval of the voters of North Carolina in a referendum nearly a year ago, The Pilot commented:

"... The racial segregation problem in the public schools still presents itself, as it did before Saturday's referendum on the enabling constitutional amendment, in the form of a question mark."

We listed several of the questions involved and then noted:

"To the extent that the Pearsall Plan leads white people to believe they have assured eternal or even long-abiding segregation in the schools, they are being deluded. The Supreme Court decision stands. The aspirations of Negroes for public recognition of their equal rights under law in public matters are not diminishing."

That was nearly a year ago. One of our prime objections to the Plan was that it was being advanced as the way to "Save Our Schools." This was a phrase that meant different things to different people, but to most Tarheel voters it meant that the schools would be "saved" from racial integration. The Plan provided, in fact, a means for this salvation by enabling citizens in a school district or portion of a district to vote that a school be closed if integration in that school took place.

The broader interpretation of "Save Our Schools"—and the interpretation that the propounders of the Plan might prefer to have made—was that the Plan was flexible enough to allow integration, as well as to block it. It was therefore thought to be constitutional under the United States Supreme Court decisions. A test of this question has not yet come before the courts.

This is the background of the recent decisions by local school boards at Charlotte, Greensboro and Winston-Salem to admit a few Negro students to white schools for the coming year. The decisions in these three cities were made under authority of the State's Pupil Assignment Act, not under the Pearsall Plan. It remains to be seen if the provisions of the Plan will be invoked later.

To those persons who viewed the Pupil Assignment Act and the Pearsall Plan as a solid bulwark against any racial mixing in the schools, the recent developments at Charlotte, Greensboro and Winston-Salem come

as a shock. As we noted a year ago, those who held this view of the legislation were being deluded.

It is a tribute to the honesty of the three school boards in those cities that they granted applications of Negroes seeking to enter the white schools—also, be it noted, refusing some of the applications, for other than racial reasons.

Those three school boards, as will many other school boards of the state in the future, faced a question that they could not, in good conscience, have answered any other way. While the Pupil Assignment Act offers a number of reasons why a board may reject a pupil's application to enter a certain school, for reasons other than race, there are bound to come applications from Negroes that simply cannot be turned down in all honesty for any of these other reasons. That moment of decision is the moral crisis for school boards and is the measure of a board's integrity. It will be interesting to see how similar crises are met by other boards over the state.

It is obvious that the stand of the Charlotte, Greensboro and Winston-Salem school officials is running ahead of full public comprehension and acceptance—but it has, after all, been more than three years since the Supreme Court's first momentous decision on the school segregation question. What happened in the three cities can hardly be described as an overnight or hasty decision. There has been plenty of time for adjustment of public thinking—but a great many people have put off coming to grips with the reality of the situation: that there is bound to be some break-through in racial segregation in the schools.

In that same editorial of The Pilot last September, from which we have quoted above, we wrote these words which seem to us as applicable today as they were then:

"It now behooves all of us—school officials and patrons and all citizens—of both races, to question and examine critically our notions about each other, to strive to find points of agreement rather than points of conflict, to renew our devotion to public education, to resolve to keep our schools open even at the cost of some compromise with rigid convictions, to eschew violence of any kind and to strive for the wisdom, tolerance and understanding without which human beings can never live in mutual respect."

"If You Can Keep Your Head When All About You Are Losing Theirs—"



WHY NOT SEE YOUR OWN STATE?

Vacation Guide To North Carolina

Many residents of North Carolina are aware of the resort and scenic attractions of their state. And perhaps residents of the Sandhills are more than normally aware of these attractions since we here are in one of the State's most notable vacation areas—an important part of "Variety Vacationland."

Yet even those of us most familiar with the state as a whole welcome information about the varied interests North Carolina has for the vacationing family, for shopping tours or for weekend trips. This central section of the state is a wonderfully convenient taking-off place for summer excursions either to the seacoast or the mountains.

Seven Areas

In The State magazine, Bill Sharpe, who knows North Carolina as well as or better than any other Tarheel, lists North Carolina attractions in seven different areas—a list that can serve as a thumbnail vacation guide to residents of the state who want to see more of North Carolina. It's a good list to look over if you're planning a vacation this summer:

Northwest: Play golf at Linville. Go horseback riding at Blowing Rock—and be sure to drop your handkerchief over the rock. See the outdoor drama "Horn in the West" at Boone. Attend a "ragpicking" sale at Crossnore. Cross the swinging bridge at Grandfather Mountain. Visit the Minerals Museum at Gillespie Gap.

Mid-Mountains: Try the Annual Craftsman's Fair and Stuart Nye's Silver Shop at Asheville. Go picnicking on Mt. Mitchell, highest peak in the East. Have dinner at the Nu-Wray Inn in Burnsville. Go trout fishing in the Pisgah Forest streams. Drink and bathe at Hot Springs.

Cool Sleep

The Sapphire Country: See Chimney Rock and Bat Cave and go swimming in Lake Lure. Try square dancing at Hendersonville. Study the wild plant preserve at Pearson Falls. Go to a concert of the Transylvania Music Camp at Brevard. Get a cool night's sleep at Highlands. Go boating on Glenville Lake. Dig for rubies in the old mines at Cowee Valley.

The Far West: Go camping in the Smoky Park. Try a cruise on Lake Junaluska. Meet the Indians

From Connecticut To Chapel Hill In 1829

Elisha Mitchell was killed by a fall over a precipice in 1857 when he was exploring the North Carolina mountain that is named for him. The observance of the 100th anniversary of his death recalls a letter his bride wrote about their journey to Chapel Hill in December, 1829. He had gone there to join the University faculty and had gone back to Connecticut to marry.

The Chapel Hill Weekly tells about the letter and quotes from it, as follows:

After a short and easy stage ride to New York City they went to Elizabethtown, New Jersey, by boat and thence to Trenton and on to Philadelphia by stage. A boat took them down the Delaware river to New Castle. They went by stage to Frenchtown and then by boat down the Chesapeake Bay on a beautiful moonlight night. In Baltimore they visited the Roman Catholic cathedral while breakfast was being prepared and after breakfast boarded a boat for Norfolk.

"We arrived at Norfolk at one o'clock on Friday. The stage was waiting and we went eleven miles to the Dismal Swamp, where we entered a canal boat 20 feet long. This was at sunset of a rainy Christmas Eve and we were drawn along through the canal at four miles an hour. We had three pistols and we were prepared for banditti.

"We were till 10 o'clock getting through the swamp. Instead of finding a stage ready to take us on to Elizabeth City we found the driver had become tired of waiting and had gone off with

Grains of Sand

What's A Boy?

Off and on for years, in weekly newspapers, we've run across something like the following item—a definition of a boy that is a wonderful mixture of truth, fantasy, common sense and affection. It pops up now and then, with minor variations, and we don't think we'd be true to the tradition of a weekly paper if we didn't print it once in a while for a new generation to chuckle over. It certainly has no time value and will, we trust, be as good a century from now as it is today. This latest version of the definition showed up in the Rotary magazine, the publication for members of that world-wide civic organization which has a club in Southern Pines.

Here is the definition:

"After a male baby has grown out of long clothes and triangles and has acquired pants, freckles and so much dirt that relatives do not dare to kiss it between meals, it becomes a boy.

"A boy can swim like a fish, run like a deer, climb like a squirrel, balk like a mule, bellow like a bull, eat like a pig, or act like a jackass, according to climate conditions.

"He is a piece of skin stretched over an appetite; a noise covered with smudges.

"He is called a tornado because he comes at the most unexpected times, hits the most unexpected places, and leaves everything a wreck behind him.

"He is a growing animal of superlative promise, to be fed and watered and kept warm.

"He is a joy forever, a periodic nuisance, the problem of our times, and the hope of a nation. Every boy is evidence that God is not discouraged with man.

"Were it not for boys, the newspapers would go unread and a thousand picture shows would go bankrupt.

"Boys are useful in running errands. A boy can easily do the family errands with the aid of five or six adults. The zest with which a boy does an errand is equalled only by the speed of a turtle on a July day.

"A boy is a natural spectator. He watches parades, fires, fights, ball games, automobiles, boats and airplanes with equal fervor—but not the clock.

"Boys faithfully imitate their dads, in spite of all efforts to teach them good manners.

"A boy, if not washed too often, and if kept in a cool, quiet place after each accident, will survive broken bones, horns, swimming holes, fights and nine helpings of pie."

Not Up To Date

Best thing seen concerning the latest Baptist hullabaloo—the one over the fact that Wake Forest students can now dance on the campus—comes from some fellow writing an indignant letter to the Biblical Recorder, notes Roy Parker, Jr., in the Hertford County Herald. Mr. Parker says further:

He deprecates this dancing, saying that "bosom-to-bosom contact" was the big danger and just as sure as garden peas at a Rotary banquet there will be "bosom-to-bosom contact" if dancing is allowed to continue at Winston-Salem.

Apparently, he isn't up on the latest rage in ballroom hoofing, a thing known as rock-and-roll in which there is not only no "bosom-to-bosom contact" (doesn't that phrase have a nice ring to it), but seldom any contact at all, even with the floor.

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The Public Speaking

All Not Lost

To the Editor:

Re birds, bugs and poison spray: should we overlook the cats that eat the birds that eat the bugs that breathe the poison vapors? All is not lost!

E. W. BUSH, D.O.
Southern Pines.

Town Should Be Proud Of Fogging Program

To the Editor:

In regard to the fogging situation, I am all for it. It is a great relief to be able to take a walk around our streets without being pestered by the gnats and mosquitoes.

It is too bad that some people have allergies which this fogging irritates. Couldn't they make a request that their homes be by-

passed? In that way, the rest of us would not be deprived of the benefits.

As for the birds, I haven't seen any dead birds lying around as a result of the fogging. In the hot weather the birds always take to the deep woods. And as for the noise and fumes, both are of short duration.

I have discussed this matter with many people and have yet to find one who objects to it.

Many of the large cities all over the U. S. have adopted this method of exterminating pests. It seems to me that Southern Pines should be proud to be so up to date.

A Taxpayer,
MRS. H. W. ALLEN,
260 E. New York Ave.
Southern Pines.